ELLEN WHITE’S TRINITARIAN STATEMENTS: WHAT DID SHE ACTUALLY WRITE?

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Introduction

Certain opponents of the church’s second fundamental belief (“The Trinity”) argue that Ellen White’s supportive statements cannot be trusted as reflecting accurately what she wrote and taught. These persons claim to accept Ellen White’s prophetic writings, but they question the authenticity of her statements that affirm the church’s belief in three distinct, co-eternal, fully divine persons in the Godhead—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This presentation will not attempt to fully define Ellen White’s concept of the Godhead nor discuss the question of whether there was any development in her views. Its interest is in the authenticity of Ellen White’s key statements in the light of available source documents. It should also be clearly stated that the church’s fundamental belief in the Trinity is not based on Ellen White’s writings, but on its understanding of biblical truth.

“Third Person of the Godhead”

For most Adventists, Ellen White’s published statements are conclusive as to her teaching on this question. In The Desire of Ages she writes that “sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power” (p. 671). This is how the text has read since its first publication in 1898. So how do opponents escape its natural interpretation that there are three distinct persons in the Godhead?

First, by suggesting that the expression found its way into The Desire of Ages through the influence of Ellen White’s assistants and/or Herbert Lacey or W. W. Prescott.¹ Second, by pointing out
that the words “third person” are not capitalized in the original 1898 printing, signifying to them that the word “person” is used in a more “general sense.” Third, by suggesting that while there are in reality only two persons in the Godhead, “the net effect for us is that there are three divine beings,” since the Holy Spirit is called “another Comforter.” In this view, the Holy Spirit is “the Spirit (presence) of the Father and/or Christ,” and not in actuality a distinct third divine person.

We will not pursue the third interpretation, except to look later at a further Ellen White statement that speaks of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, as “three distinct agencies” working together on behalf of humanity. But the first two observations are aimed at the authenticity of the text—our interest in this presentation.

Can this passage in *The Desire of Ages* be trusted as representing what Ellen White actually penned? What does the original manuscript say?

The White Estate often receives this type of inquiry from persons who question the reading or teaching of a published statement. Some are surprised when we tell them that Ellen White did not write out her chapters by longhand as they appear in books like *Steps to Christ* and those in the *Conflict of the Ages* Series. She was certainly the author of the text, but most of the material comprising the chapters as we have them was compiled from her many earlier works, including her sermons, letters, and articles. So to find the original manuscript for any given passage in a book like *The Desire of Ages*, we must determine the source document and whether a handwritten draft of that document is extant.

What, then, is the source for this sentence on page 671 of *The Desire of Ages*? We find it in a letter Ellen White addressed to “My Brethren in America,” dated February 6, 1896. She wrote, “Evil had been accumulating for centuries, and could only be restrained and resisted by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power.” This letter was copied and sent from Australia to church leaders in Battle Creek, where the General Conference president, O. A. Olsen, published it the next year in a pamphlet circulated among church leaders
and ministers (Special Testimonies, No. 10, pp. 25-33). This contemporary publication provides another evidence—beyond the obvious copyright date—that this passage in The Desire of Ages reads as it did when first published in 1898.

Exhibit 1 is a scan of the first page of this letter, showing the key sentence in the second paragraph. The skeptic will ask how we know that this letter actually came from Ellen White. What does the handwritten original say? Unfortunately for us who live in 2006, Ellen White rarely preserved original drafts of her letters once they had been transcribed and received her approval. We will see that, in certain other instances, we are fortunate to have her original drafts, but for this letter the handwritten original is not known to be extant. But we do have other evidences of its authenticity. Pages 5, 6, and 7 contain Ellen White’s handwritten interlineations, which she often added after further reading of a document. Exhibit 2 is a scan of page 6, showing these interlineations and providing the evidence that this letter was indeed reviewed by Ellen White herself. So we are on sure ground in concluding that this key sentence in The Desire of Ages was not slipped past Ellen White’s eye into the manuscript of the book either by her assistants or other church leaders.

What should we make of the second argument, that the words “third person” were not capitalized in the earliest printings? As we saw in Exhibit 1, the phrase was also not capitalized in the original letter. Further comparison between Ellen White’s letters and her published articles and books indicates that editorial style, not theological intent, governed such matters as to whether pronouns referring to deity should be capitalized. If the argument is to be made that the use of lower case characters in “third person” shows that Ellen White was not attributing deity-status to the Holy Spirit, then one has to explain why, in the same earliest printings, the personal pronoun “He” (referring to the Holy Spirit) is twice capitalized in the immediately preceding paragraph (671:1), and elsewhere in the same chapter.
hidden to communicate the light from the burning lamps to others, that the regions of darkness may have opportunity to hear the saving message, doing their duty? It seems to me I must call to mind again the words of
Washing and away every evil from among you, make us better, and declare
What are we doing? Do you believe that this is the period in
which we are to labor as never before for the salvation of sinners? How
much better you would have been employed in doing this class of work than
in taking up lines of work which the Lord never set you to do. Who, I
ask, in your councils, in your Foreign Missionary Board, are Christians,
in heart and soul? O that every one of you could serve for a time in
furnishing the lamp in the place where it has never set to burn new-field, nor in
foreign countries. Then you would know, much better than you now do,
what self-denial and self-sacrifice mean. And if you were permitted to
return, you would work much more intelligently. Your yes and no may
would be spoken with a much graver burden, and with a sense of the res-
nponsibility involved. But as yet, you have not touched even the border.
The indifference with which decisions are made in regard to these things,
is an offense to God.

Where you are, you have every facility for the work, and you know
nothing about the hardship of starting the work in new fields, among a
people that have scarcely any knowledge of missionary work. Workers are
appointed as missionaries to these foreign fields, and there they are
left to get along as best they can, while those at the heart of the work
think it very important to do something that had better be left undone.
O if some could only once have a sense of how the Lord looks upon their
course for several years past, they would hide themselves for shame.
They would labor, they would deny self, that they might send all they
could possibly gather, to foreign fields. If you only knew what you
should know in your position, that the calls of missionaries would stir
every fiber of your being. How intensely you would labor; how self-de-
nying you would be, that you might send facilities to those who must have
them. Missionaries must have facilities, or else it is their duty to

"Three living persons"

We will look next at a significant statement published in the book *Evangelism*. *Evangelism* is a compilation published in 1946, a decade before the Adventist-evangelical dialogues that resulted in *Questions on Doctrine*. Nevertheless, the cloud associated with that period has caused some to cast a skeptical backward shadow on this clearly Trinitarian statement:

There are three living persons of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will cooperate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ.\(^6\)

Does this statement accurately represent what Ellen White penned?

Exhibit 3 is a scan of the title page for the source of the quotation in *Evangelism*—*Special Testimonies*, Series B, No. 7. Of particular interest is the note at the bottom, “Published for the Author.” Exhibit 4 is a scan of the page containing the key sentence. So whatever alleged “conspiracies” led to the wording that appears in *Evangelism*, they could not have originated with the brethren in the 1940s. The passage appeared in print in 1906, published for the author—Ellen G. White.

Tracing the source of this material, we find that it comes from Manuscript 21, 1906, written in November 1905 and bearing the transcription date of January 9, 1906. Exhibit 5 is a scan of page 4 on which this key statement appears. The sentence is identical to what was published in Series B, except that in the printed version a semi-colon is substituted for the comma after “heavenly trio.” Exhibit 6 is a scan of the first page of this manuscript showing Ellen White’s handwritten interlineations—evidence that she had personally reviewed the typescript. So we see that what is published in *Evangelism* accurately reprints what is published in *Series B*, which, in turn, accurately reproduces Ellen White’s manuscript, as reviewed by her.
Testimonies for the Church

Containing

Messages of Warning and Instruction to Seventh-day Adventists

Regarding Dangers Connected with the Medical Missionary Work

By ELLEN G. WHITE

PUBLISHED FOR THE AUTHOR

Exhibit 3. Special Testimonies, Series B., No.7 (1906), title page.
The Son is all the fulness of the Godhead manifested. The Word of God declares Him to be "the express image of His person." "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Here is shown the personality of the Father.

The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fulness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Saviour. There are three living persons of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers — the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit — those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will co-operate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ.

There will have to be a second conversion in the hearts of some of our leading medical fraternity, and a cutting away from the men who are trying to guide the medical ship into the harbor, else they themselves will never reach the haven of rest. Christ calls, Come out from among them, and be ye separate.

I write this because any moment my life may be ended. Unless there is a breaking away from the influence that Satan has prepared, and a reviving of the testimonies that God has given, souls will perish in their delusion. They will accept fallacy after fallacy, and will thus keep up a disunion that will always exist until those who have been deceived take their stand on the right platform. All this higher education that is being planned will be extinguished; for it is spurious. The more simple the education of our workers, the less connection they have with the men whom God is not leading, the more will be accomplished. Work will be done in the simplicity of true godliness, and the old, old times will be back

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the things of earth. The Father is all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and is invisible to mortal sight.

The Son is all the fullness of the Godhead manifested. The word of God declares him to be "the express image of his person." "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Here is shown the personality of the Father.

The Comforter that Christ promised to send after he ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fullness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Savior. There are three living persons of the heavenly trio, in the name of these three great powers,—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,—those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will co-operate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ.

What is the sinner to do? Believe in Christ. He is Christ's property, bought with the blood of the Son of God. Through test and trial the Saviour redeemed human beings from the slavery of sin. What then must we do to be saved from sin?—Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as the sin-pardoning Savior. He who confesses his sin and humbles his heart will receive forgiveness. Jesus is the sin-pardoning Saviour as well as the only begotten Son of the infinite God. The pardoned sinner is reconciled to God through Jesus Christ our Deliverer from sin. Keeping in the path of holiness, he is a subject of the grace of God. There is brought to him full salvation, joy, and peace, and the true wisdom that comes from God.
We can go one step further, however, in this instance. Exhibit 7 is scanned from a page in one of Ellen White’s diary/journals where is found the original unedited handwritten draft for Manuscript 21, 1906. This is what was transcribed by Ellen

White’s secretaries. The key passage, as originally penned by Ellen White, reads: “Here are the living three personalidades of the heavenly trio in which every soul repenting of their sins, receiving Christ by a living faith, to them who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost....”

Now we encounter an interesting question. Putting aside the routine grammatical improvements Ellen White’s assistants were instructed to make when transcribing her first draft manuscripts, what are we to make of her changing “three persons” to “three personalidades”? Here is evidence, non-Trinitarian promoters argue, that Ellen White was seeking to make a distinction between “personalidades” and “persons,” as the sentence finally reads in the transcribed manuscript.

Should we read something substantive into this change from “persons” to “personalidades”? A comprehensive study of Ellen White’s usage of these terms is outside the parameters of our interest in this presentation, but suffice it to say that, as its first definition, Webster defines “personality” as “the quality or state of being a person”; and in its theological usage, “quality or state of consisting of distinct persons, said of the Godhead.” My own study of Ellen White’s usage is that she used the two terms interchangeably, which is no doubt why she was quite satisfied with the final reading of the transcription, as we saw in Exhibits 5 and 6.
Furthermore, if by writing “three _personalities_” Ellen White meant to steer clear of referencing three _persons_ in the Godhead, we are hard pressed to explain why she clearly wrote “three persons” in an earlier document, Manuscript 57, 1900, published in the _SDA Bible Commentary_:

The work is laid out before every soul that has acknowledged his faith in Jesus Christ by baptism, and has become a receiver of the pledge from _the three persons_—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.\(^8\)

Exhibit 8 is a scan of this manuscript, and as in the previous example, we are fortunate to have the original handwritten draft that was transcribed by Ellen White’s secretaries. As we see in Exhibit 9, there is no question that Ellen White wrote “the three persons—the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost.”

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**Exhibit 8.** Excerpt from Manuscript 57, 1900.

**Exhibit 9.** Excerpt from handwritten draft of Manuscript 57, 1900.
Ellen White’s use of “third person” and “three persons in the heavenly trio” plainly indicates her belief that not only are there three beings in the Godhead, but that they are “persons.” Another statement published in *Evangelism* says it in no uncertain terms:

The Holy Spirit is a person, for He beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God.9

Again we are asked, what did Ellen White actually pen? Exhibit 10 is a scan of the source quoted in *Evangelism*—Manuscript 20, 1906, p. 9. Not only does this manuscript bear Ellen White’s approval at the top of its first page—“I have read this carefully and accept it”—(Exhibit 11), but we also have the original handwritten draft that was transcribed by her secretaries. Exhibit 12 is a scan of the key sentence, “The Holy Spirit is a person for He beareth witness with our spirit. . . .”

But, say non-Trinitarian promoters, the Father and the Son are persons. “The reference does not say, “the Holy Spirit is a person, separate and distinct from God the Father.”10

No, this reference does not. But Ellen White has more to say on the subject elsewhere. Manuscript 93, 1893 reads:

The Holy Spirit is the Comforter, in Christ’s name. He personifies Christ, *yet is a distinct personality.*11

Exhibit 13 is a scan of Ellen White’s original handwritten draft, backing up the transcription. Manuscript 27a, 1900 adds this description:

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, *powers infinite and omniscient,* receive those who truly enter into covenant relation with God.12

Note how the attributes of deity are applied to each person. This is followed by the statement:

*Three distinct agencies,* the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, work together for human beings.13
...grandeur. These tables of stone are in the heavens, and they will be brought forth in that day when the judgment shall sit, and the books shall be opened, and man shall be judged according to the things written in the books. They will be judged by the law written by the finger of God, and given to Moses to be deposited in the Ark. A record is kept of the deeds of all man, and according to his works will every man receive sentence, whether they be good or whether they be evil.

The Holy Spirit always leads to the written word. The Holy Spirit is a person; for he beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God. When this witness is borne, it carries with it its own evidence. At such times we believe and are sure that we are the children of God. What strong evidence of the power of truth we can give to believers and unbelievers alike when we can voice the words of John, "We have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him."

The Holy Spirit has a personality, else he could not bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits that we are the children of God. He must also be a divine person, else he could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God. "For what man knoweth the things of a man save the spirit of man, which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."
Exhibit 11. Manuscript 20, 1906, p.1, showing Ellen White’s approval at the top of the page: “I have read this carefully and accept it.”
The original handwritten draft for this manuscript is not extant, but the transcription not only bears Ellen White’s signature but also her interlineations throughout, as seen in Exhibits 14 and 15.

*Is the Holy Spirit “Christ’s representative” or Christ “himself”?*

With Ellen White’s unambiguous statements about the “heavenly trio” in mind, let us examine another passage relating to the nature of the Holy Spirit that non-Trinitarian promoters look to for support. It appears on page 669 of *The Desire of Ages*:

The Holy Spirit is Christ’s representative, but divested of the personality of humanity, and independent thereof. Cumbered with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally. Therefore it was for their interest that He should go to the Father, and send the Spirit to be His successor on earth. No one could then have any advantage because of his location or his personal contact with Christ. By the Spirit the Saviour
they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them as thou hast loved me."

Wonderful, precious words!

Love for God is cultivated and developed by beholding Him who has bought us with His own life. Learn to serve Him, not under an oppressive restraint but with cheerful obedience. Thus you may represent Him to the world. We are to strive daily to increase in knowledge, multiplying our powers through the grace God will give. For we are the temple of God, and the temple of God has been given. We are to grow in usefulness. Thus we may testify to the world that God has sent His Son into the earth to save men and women from sin. As God's followers manifest the mighty power of His grace to transform the heart, they show that they bear the true imprint of His name.

Three distinct agencies, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, work together for human beings. They are united in the work of making the church on earth like the church in heaven. They place the resources of heaven at the disposal of those who will appreciate and impart these spiritual treasures, multiplying them by using them to the glory of God. Every diligent effort to improve adds to the gifts we have. The powers of heaven work with human beings on the plan of multiplication.

Christ came to the earth to set in operation a vast missionary work. Those who compose his church are to co-operate with him by revealing his attributes. They are to act under the dictation of the Holy Spirit. The Heavenly angels co-operate with those who seek to give to humanity the impress of the divine

would be accessible to all. In this sense He would be nearer to them than if He had not ascended on high.

The focus of this passage is the presence of Christ through His representative—the Holy Spirit. The personal distinction between Christ and the Holy Spirit is carefully expressed in the text, but non-Trinitarian promoters point to the manuscript source for this passage. We find it in a letter to Edson White and his wife, dated February 18, 1895. How does it read in the original letter?

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*Exhibit 15. Manuscript 27a, 1900, p.8, showing Ellen White’s signature.*
Cumbered with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally; therefore it was altogether for their advantage that he should leave them, go to his Father, and send the Holy Spirit to be his successor on earth. The Holy Spirit is himself, divested of the personality of humanity, and independent thereof. He would represent himself as present in all places by his Holy Spirit, as the Omnipresent.\textsuperscript{15}

What is of particular significance to non-Trinitarians is that where The Desire of Ages reads “the Holy Spirit is Christ’s representative,” the original letter reads “The Holy Spirit is himself.”

The handwritten original is not known to be extant, but the letter as transcribed by Ellen White’s secretary bears her signature and other interlineations, signifying her approval of the letter. See Exhibit 16.

Does the wording of the original letter establish that Ellen White believed the Holy Spirit and Christ are not distinct persons?

We have already looked at several Ellen White statements affirming that there are “three persons” in the Godhead, and that the Holy Spirit is a “distinct personality.” As these statements chronologically both precede and follow the writing of this letter, consistency would lead us to expect that she is not interjecting a new understanding of the Spirit in this passage. Indeed, we find the same language of “representation” used in this letter as we find in The Desire of Ages. The paragraph in the letter where this sentence appears begins with the statement: “Although our Lord ascended from earth to heaven, the Holy Spirit was appointed as his representative among men.”

Ellen White further explains the meaning of her words “the Holy Spirit is himself” by adding that “Christ would represent himself as present in all places by his Holy Spirit.”

In the mysterious union that exists between the members of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit’s presence is synonymous with the personal presence of Jesus, yet their distinct identities are
Dear children Edwin and Emma,

We have just sent off a large mail, and I am very, very tired. Eld. McCullagh and Bro. Warren came in this forenoon and had dinner with us. I was too busy to go to the dining room, and a tray was brought to my room, but I ate very lightly. After dinner Bro. McCullagh presented several important matters before me for consideration.

Among others was the urgent, for me to speak next Sabbath at Ashfield, and next Sunday evening in the tent at Petersham. It is considered necessary for me to speak there quite frequently now. My prayer is that the Lord will strengthen me and enable me with His Holy Spirit that his name may be glorified by my work. The Lord is very good to me, and I praise His holy name. Although the work seems to have only just begun in Ashfield, they have pitched the tent at Petersham, two miles nearer Sydney, and hold meetings in it every evening except Saturday. The tent is full every evening. Last Sunday, the collection in Ashfield was £6, and the collection in Petersham was something over £6. This will go far toward defraying the expenses of these meetings.

Eld. McCullagh and his co-laborer, Bro. Ware, are much encouraged. Several of the most influential men are much interested in the meetings. Mrs. Collins and Fallant are visiting and giving Bible readings, which create some interest, and bring the people to the tent to hear the truth. There are many more calls for this kind of labor than can be filled. Mrs. McCullagh and Ware think they will be needed in the field in 1896 when the season is right to have.

Given them no license to be unkind or unchristian, license to be oppressive, and to let their tongues, which should be sanctified, speak words which will open a door of temptation, and help the great adversary in his work of discouraging souls. God has given us a work to do in saving souls from the companionship of Satan.

(M.W.H. Y copies)

[Signature]

Ellen G. White

Exhibit 16. Letter 119, 1895, pp1,5, showing Ellen White’s handwriting.
preserved.

The same idea is found in other Ellen White passages, such as:

> When you come to receive Christ as your personal Saviour, there will be a marked change in you; you will be converted, and the Lord Jesus by His Holy Spirit will stand by you.\(^\text{16}\)

and

> I testify to my brethren and sisters that the church of Christ, enfeebled and defective as it may be, is the only object on earth on which He bestows His supreme regard. While He extends to all the world His invitation to come to Him and be saved, . . . He comes personally by His Holy Spirit into the midst of His church.\(^\text{17}\)

How do we account for the change in wording in *The Desire of Ages*? We have only the 1895 letter, no working drafts for the finished chapter, leaving us with the conclusion that what was published in 1898 represents the edited reading approved by the author.\(^\text{18}\) The language adopted by Ellen White in *The Desire of Ages* helps the reader to avoid a misinterpretation that arises when the sentence as first constructed is isolated from the entire paragraph of its original context.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, we cannot approach the subject of the Godhead without acknowledging the limitations of human conception and language. It is one thing to examine what an inspired author has written, it is quite another to say that we have fully understood it.

Our interest in this presentation, however, has not been the mystery of the Godhead but the trustworthiness of certain descriptive statements found in Ellen White’s books. We have found that the original handwritten manuscripts, her approved
transcriptions, and/or the first editions of her published works support the Trinitarian expressions found today in her writings.

Addendum (added May 2012)

Further evidence that Ellen White believed that the Godhead consists of three beings may be found in a Sabbath sermon she delivered on October 20, 1906. The full sermon is reproduced in *Sermons and Talks*, vol. 1, pp. 360-383. The key statement is found on p. 367: “You are born unto God, and you stand under the sanction and the power of the three holiest Beings in heaven, who are able to keep you from falling.” Some have questioned the authenticity of the statement because it was not published in Ellen White’s lifetime. How do we know that we can trust the reading in *Sermons and Talks*? The source of the sermon is Ellen White’s Manuscript 95, 1906, which was a part of Ellen White’s file ever since the sermon was transcribed in 1906 as evidenced by other portions of the sermon which Ellen White published in the December 13, 1906, *Review and Herald*.

Exhibit 17 is a photograph of Ellen White’s 1906 letter book which contains Ms 95, 1906, on pages 19-42. Exhibit 18 is scan of the manuscript’s first page, identifying the document, and Exhibit 19 is a scan of the page containing the “three holiest beings” statement (in the second paragraph).
Exhibit 17. Photograph of Ellen White’s 1906 letter book which contains Ms 95, 1906, on pages 19-42.
LESSONS FROM THE FIFTEENTH OF ROMANS.

Sermon, Mrs. E.G. White, Congregational Church, (temporarily used by Oakland S.D.A. Church) 18th and Market Streets, Oakland, Calif., Sabbath afternoon, October 28, 1898.

In the fifteenth of Romans the apostle Paul declares: "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not Himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on Me." Hearken especially the words, "The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on Me." Ob, that these words might sink deep into the heart of every one of you who think you are doing God's service while finding fault with others. This is the weakness, the besetting sin, of many in this congregation, and our great desire is that you shall get rid of this evil before the Lord gets rid of you. The reproaches with which we reproach the servants of the Lord, fall upon Christ Himself.

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

We want to be little Christians. We want to come right to the word, and to carry out this word in every particular. Then we shall know that Jesus Christ is our efficiency, our healer, our strength, our refuge and our rearward. Then we shall have that help and that power which God alone can give to us.

Exhibit 18. Scan of the manuscript's first page, identifying the document.
inhabit in these words of criticism, you blaspheme God’s holy name as verily as you would were you to swear. I am instructed to present these things before you, that you may see how you disfellow the name of Christ Jesus.

"Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God, that I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost."

Here is where the work of the Holy Ghost comes in, after your baptism. You are baptized in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. You are raised up out of the water to live henceforth in newness of life,—to live a new life. You are born into God, and you stand under the sanction and the power of the three holiest beings in heaven, who are able to keep you from falling. You are to reveal that you are dead to sin; your life is hid with Christ in God. Hidden with Christ in God,—wonderful transformation. This is a most precious promise: When I feel oppressed, and hardly know how to relate myself toward the work that God has given me to do, I just call upon the three great Worthies, and say: You know I can not do this work in my own strength. You must work in me, and by me, and through me, sanctifying my tongue, sanctifying my spirit, sanctifying my words, and bringing me into a position where my spirit shall be susceptible to the workings of the Holy Spirit of God upon my mind and character.

And this is the prayer that every one of us may offer. Oh, I am so afraid that the next judgment of God will come upon Oakland and San Francisco again, before you are ready! But if you come to the Lord, if those of you who profess to be His commandant-keeping people will come to Him and humble your hearts before Him, your ignorance may pass away.

Exhibit 19. Scan of the page containing the “three holiest beings” statement (in the second paragraph).
1For example, see Rachel Cory-Kuehl, The Persons of God (n.p.: Aggelia Publications, 1996), pp. 159-188.


3Cory-Kuehl, pp. 187, 177.


5E. G. White, Letter 8, 1896.


8E. G. White, SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 6, p. 1074, emphasis supplied.

9Evangelism, pp. 616, 617.

10Cory-Kuehl, p. 177.


12E. G. White, Manuscript 27a, 1900, published in SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 6, p. 1075, emphasis supplied.

13E. G. White, Manuscript 27a, 1900, p. 7. This portion is not published in the SDA Bible Commentary.

14E. G. White, Letter 119, 1895.

15Published in Manuscript Releases, vol. 14, p. 93.


18Against the claim that the published reading does not reflect Ellen White’s teaching is the fact that the text remained unchanged by her for the next 17 years prior to her death, and that the passage was repeated in
an article she supplied for the Week of Prayer Readings published in the *Review and Herald*, November 19, 1908.